SIXTH DAY—*5th October 1925.*

The House proceeded to consider the next item on the programme, *viz.*, Resolutions.

Resolution No. 1.

MR. R. GOPALASWAMI IYER—Sir, I beg to move "That this Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that necessary legislation be undertaken to do away with capital punishment in the State."

In moving the resolution, he said that a similar legislation was before the British Parliament and that the first reading of the Bill was not yet over. In America, Italy, Austria, Switzerland and some other western countries, capital punishment had been done away with. It was not right to hang a man because Government had the power to do so. If murder was a cold-blooded action, hanging was no less so ; and once a man was hanged, it was impossible to restore him to life even though his innocence was proved subsequently. It was likely that crime would have been much less in the State if there were any institutions for the proper education of defectives, delinquents, subnormals and morbids, and such institutions would be more useful than a system of education after a man was sent to jail. By hanging so many young men, Government were depriving them of the opportunity of rendering some little service to the country in their later days. So, it was better to sentence them to long-term imprisonment than meting out the death penalty. For these reasons organizations such as the National Council for the abolition of death penalty were strongly condemning the system of hanging. Statistics showed that in countries where it had been discontinued, crime had by no means increased. Hanging was opposed to all sentiment and human feelings, and the sensitive minds could not view it without abhorrence. Recently, after a large number of Moplahs were hanged in the Vellore Jail, both the Superintendent and the Doctor had to proceed on long leave.

There were also other points for consideration. By hanging a man, the whole family would be left in the lurch. The exaggerated reports of crime and punishments

appearing in the newspapers also had a bad effect on the minds of the newspaper readers. After all, murder was the result of sudden passion, and it was too much to hang the murderer for it. At a time when so much universal interest was evinced in the matter of putting an end to the slaughter of dumb animals, it was natural that human life should be protected at all costs. In this view, MR. GOPALASWAMI IYER appealed to the members to consider the question from the human point of view, as men with sons, brothers, etc., and requested Government to take the necessary legislative measures before the next Birthday Session of the Assembly. This was not a new matter and several Governments had already taken action to do away with capital punishment.

MR. SURAPPA seconded the resolution. He added that capital punishment had been abolished in many countries, and in some others it was not being enforced though not done away with altogether. In all those countries, crime had showed a tendency to decrease rather than increase. If the resolution was accepted, it would be one definite step forward in the path of civilization.

MR. JAVALI RUDRAPPA of Hoskote strongly opposed the resolution. Even with the fear of such extreme penalty, there were so many cold-blooded murders in the State, and if it was altogether put a stop to, they would surely increase.

MR. M. S. NARASINGA RAO strongly supported the resolution on religious and social grounds. He was of opinion that a long-term imprisonment was in itself a severe punishment and the extreme penalty of hanging was both inhuman and unnecessary. He opposed death sentence on religious grounds saying that no religion advocated it. He added that the soul of the man would try to take revenge and thus increase murders.

MR. NILIGIRI SANJIVIAH opposed the resolution and observed that even in the Manu Dharma Sastra, death penalty was prescribed for murder. He knew of countries where crime had increased on account of the commutation of capital punishment into long-term imprisonment.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that if and when the British Parliament accepted the measure, it would be time to consider the question in Mysore.

THE DEWAN called the attention of the House to the fact that though there were sentences of death, they were in most cases commuted to transportation.

The resolution was then put to vote and lost, 70 members voting for and 73 against.

At this stage, the Dewan-President informed the House that Raja Guru, His Holiness the Sri Parakala Swamigalavaru expired on the previous night, and that the procession of the body was just starting. On this account, the Assembly was adjourned to 12 Noon on Tuesday the 6th October 1925.